

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A storage battery, comprising:

a battery casing;

a cover closing an opening of said battery casing; and

a thinner see-through window portion provided on a sidewall of said battery casing for visual recognition, from the outside, of a level of electrolyte contained in said battery casing, wherein

a reinforcing rib is provided ~~[[at]]~~ integral with said see-through window portion and extends through a see-through area of said see-through window portion displaced inwardly away from edges of said see-through window portion.

2. (original) The storage battery according to claim 1, wherein

said battery casing has a plurality of cells and a partition separating said cells, and

said reinforcing rib is provided at a position in alignment with said partition.

3. (original) The storage battery according to claim 1, wherein

a plurality of said reinforcing ribs are provided at regular intervals, and said reinforcing rib extends parallel to a direction of height of said battery casing.

1 **4.** (original) The storage battery according to claim 1,
2 wherein

3 the thickness of that part of said battery casing
4 which is not provided with said see-through window portion
5 is made equal to the thickness of that part of said
6 see-through window portion which is provided with said
7 reinforcing rib.

1 **5.** (original) The storage battery according to claim 1,
2 wherein

3 said reinforcing rib is formed by selectively making
4 thicker said see-through window portion.

1 **6.** (original) The storage battery according to claim 1,
2 wherein

3 a side surface of said battery casing includes a first
4 side surface having a relatively larger area and a second
5 side surface having a relatively smaller area, and

6 said see-through window portion is provided on at
7 least one of said first and second side surfaces.

Claim 7 (canceled).

1 **8.** (new) The storage battery according to claim 6, wherein
2 said see-through window portion is provided on said first
3 side surface.

1 **9.** (new) The storage battery according to claim 6, wherein
2 said see-through window portion is provided on said second
3 side surface.

1 **10.** (new) The storage battery according to claim 2, wherein
2 said reinforcing rib lies on a common plane with said
3 partition.

1 **11.** (new) An electric storage battery comprising:

2 a battery case that has a top opening and that
3 includes plural sidewalls bounding an interior space and
4 plural partitions dividing said interior space into plural
5 cells;

6 a battery cover that covers said top opening of said
7 battery case;

8 wherein:

9 at least one windowed sidewall of said sidewalls
10 respectively includes an opaque wall, a see-through window
11 provided in said opaque wall, and plural reinforcing ribs
12 provided spaced apart from one another on said see-through
13 window;

14 said battery case is a single-piece integrally-molded
15 unitary member integrally including said sidewalls and said
16 partitions;

17 said see-through window is integrally molded as one
18 integrally connected piece with said opaque wall and with
19 at least one of said partitions;

20 said reinforcing ribs are integrally molded as one
21 integrally connected piece with said see-through window;
22 and

23 at least one of said reinforcing ribs lies on an outer
24 surface of said see-through window on a common plane with
25 said at least one of said partitions.

1 **12.** (new) The electric storage battery according to claim 11,
2 wherein said see-through window spans a plurality of said
3 cells.

1 **13.** (new) The electric storage battery according to claim 11,
2 wherein each one of said reinforcing ribs has see-through
3 areas of said see-through window respectively on two
4 lateral sides thereof.

1 **14.** (new) The electric storage battery according to claim 11,
2 including a same number of said reinforcing ribs as said
3 partitions, wherein all of said reinforcing ribs are
4 provided only at respective positions lying on respective
5 common planes with all of said partitions.

1 **15.** (new) The electric storage battery according to claim 11,
2 including a greater number of said reinforcing ribs than
3 said partitions, wherein some of said reinforcing ribs lie
4 on respective common planes with said partitions, and some
5 of said reinforcing ribs are parallel to and laterally
6 offset from and not lying on common planes with any of said
7 reinforcing ribs.

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]